



Climate Smart Kingston
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CLIMATE SMART KINGSTON MEETING
CITY HALL, KINGSTON, CONFERENCE ROOM 2
4:30 TO 6PM, WEDNESDAY JULY 22, 2015

I. Welcome and Introductions:

Attendance: Hugo Jule, Karen Sullivan, John Wackman, Betta Broad, Mike D'Arcy, Nolan Bastianelli, Azriel Alleyne, Kevin McEvoy, Julie Noble

II. Current Initiatives: Updates and Action Items

1. **a. Solarize Kingston:** John discussed spreading the word on the upcoming events and the Solarize Kingston program and reported the following information together with Betta, Azriel and Mike. Tonight immediately after this meeting is a Solarize Kingston workshop at City Hall. The next workshop after that is at the Hudson River Maritime Museum on August 4, followed by August 20 at the Lace Mill, 165 Cornell St, where a solar array is already installed by RUPCO. September 12 is the last day to enroll with 2-3 weeks after that to enter into a contract. Solarize is now expanded to Rosendale, Beacon, Newburgh and Goshen. In Kingston there are 15 to 16 customers under contract however only one is SOLAR Generation which has a small crew. SOLAR Generation have been signing contracts but not in the City of Kingston and may be booked to the end of year. Discussion continued with attendees giving marketing feedback. It was reported that 50 plus households have enrolled or expressed interest in enrollment. There are discount tiers for different totals of enrollments. For the first 40 enrollments the discount is 10%, which increases for 40-74 enrollments. Information can be found at <http://solarize-hudsonvalley.org/>

b. Shared Solar and Renewable Energy: Betta announced that NYS announced a shared solar program which will be rolled out in phases. Azriel is knowledgeable and spoke briefly on this program. Link to the July 16 press release by Governor Cuomo concerning shared solar and increased access to renewable energy sources can be found at the links below:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-expanded-access-renewable-energy-millions-new-yorkers>

<http://ny-sun.ny.gov/Get-Solar/Community-Solar>

Further discussion concerned the differences between a micro grid and a solar co-op with a micro grid described as a community grid including facilities based on one or more energy sources locally generated such as solar, wind and/or other sources either combined or alone while a solar co-op purchases energy as a group of co-operators pooling their buying power.

Azriel's website is found below for more information on these initiatives:

<http://www.freedomsolaralliances.com>

2. Energy Advocate Program:

- i. **Energy Audits:** Mike reported that a total of 197 households have applied for energy audits with 186 approved for assessment and 120 completed. 23 households have work approved or completed. Karen mentioned real estate listings that have energy audits

included in the property presentation and discussed a listing in the Town of Olive showing that the work recommended by the energy audit was performed post audit.

- ii. **PACE financing:** The matter was tabled by the Kingston Common Council Finance Committee due to a long agenda at the last meeting and is to be continued to the next Finance Committee meeting.

- 3. **Community Organization Collaboration:** Endorsement forms are available for community organizations wishing to endorse the Solarize campaign and host a Solarize presentation or provide volunteers. Kevin indicated that it would be brought up to the Kingston Land Trust.
- 4. **Sustainability Tracking, Reaching Goals:** Julie reported briefly.
Outreach: A copy of the ShopRite Earth 2015 newsletter was distributed and reviewed as an outreach example. School outreach with ShopRite or other corporate sponsors could establish something along the lines of the Green Team discussed in the Shop Rite newsletter. Working with several local and regional retailers with local outlets was discussed with Herzogs, Hannafords and Stewarts considered possibilities. Nolan offered to begin research on this initiative. Information on Stewart's and solar panels is below:
<http://www.stewartsshops.com/news/the-power-of-solar-panels/>.
- 5. **Community Choice Aggregation (CCA):** Citizens for Local Power is applying for a Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) grant from NYSERDA's Cleaner, Greener Communities Program. The Ulster County CCA project is building community support. More information is available at:
<http://www.citizensforlocalpower.com/community-choice--cca-.html>
- 6. **NYSERDA:** It was mentioned that the contract between VHB Engineering and NYSERDA may be ending regionally and that the NYSERDA scope may be changing with regards to funding opportunities.

III. **Climate Smart Kingston Commission:** It was reported that Emilie Hauser has received a response from the Mayor concerning the status of the commission which remains unappointed.

IV. **Next Meeting:** August 26 at 4:30 PM